

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 8, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on February 1, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Complaint Filed, SPX Corporation, Owantonna, Minnesota

On January 25, 2002, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention issued a complaint against SPX Corporation, Owantonna, Minnesota. The complaint alleges that SPX Corporation failed to submit a Hazardous Chemical Inventory Form (Tier I or II) to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and fire department, for the 2000 calendar year pursuant to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). This facility was storing at least 10,000 pounds of propane and Inject-R-Kleen. Propane and Inject-R-Kleen are or contain EPCRA hazardous chemicals with a minimum storage threshold of 10,000 pounds. The Agency is proposing a \$13,752 penalty.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Contracts Modified (Require Electronic Data Submission), Response Action Contracts and Short Term Analysis Service Contract

Modifications to the Response Action Contracts (RACs) and short term analysis service contract (STASC) were recently

developed and approved that will require submittal of environmental data not only in hard copy format, but electronically, as well. Approximately 50 work assignments will be affected by these modifications. Receiving data electronically will give Work Assignment Managers access to a number of software applications that can assist with evaluating and reviewing the data. On January 23, 2002, Dave Wilson and Mary Tierney held a training session for the contractors that will be following the new requirement. Contractors under the RACs contract include CH2M Hill, Weston, and TetraTech EMI. The other contract that was modified, STASC, is a new contract with Environmental Design, Inc. (EDI). Under this contract, EDI will be able to conduct sampling at sites for which Five-Year Review reports are being prepared. Staff from STL laboratories also attended the training.

Contacts: David Wilson (312-886-1476)
 Mary Tierney (312-886-4785)
 Steve Nathan (312-886-5496)
 Pat Vogtman (312-886-9553)
 Cecilia Moore (312-886-1488)
 Doug Zamastil (312-886-0650)
 Vivian Aviles (312-353-0324)

Program Reform Announced, Feed Materials Production Center (USDOE) Superfund Site, Fernald, Ohio

In a speech at the Fernald Environmental Management Project site, Fernald, Ohio, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Spencer Abraham announced the new and improved Environmental Management (EM) Program plan of action called, "Securing Our Communities: A Blueprint for Addressing Health Risks and Accelerating the Environmental Restoration of the Nation's Nuclear Sites." The plan is a product of a year-long top-to-bottom review of the environmental management mission. It emphasizes three basic goals: 1) eliminating significant health and safety risks as soon as possible; 2) reviewing remaining risks on a case-by-case basis working with State and local officials to determine the most appropriate remediation schedules and approaches; and, 3) streamlining cleanup so that funding spent on routine maintenance and security - which the program estimates accounts for two-thirds of the total EM budget - will be put to use for further expedited cleanup. Building on this plan, Mr. Abraham announced the creation of a separate account, the Expedited Cleanup Account, within the EM budget. These additional funds will be available for sites which agree to participate in a fast-track cleanup plan. In recognition of Fernald, Mr. Abraham stated that

many of the ideas used to accelerate cleanup came from Fernald, which pioneered the project-based cleanup process.

Contacts: Jim Saric (312-886-0992)
Gene Jablonowski (312-886-4591)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Training Sessions, Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance

On January 29 and 30, 2002, Region 5 held two Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance training sessions. Headquarters is providing training to all 10 Regional Offices since the Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance was completed in July 2001. The training sessions in Region 5 were provided to Remedial Project Managers, geologists, toxicologists, attorneys, community involvement coordinators, and others involved in the Five-Year Review Process. Twenty participants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management also attended the sessions. A training session for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is planned for Spring 2002. Five-Year Reviews are required when hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants are left on site above levels that allow for unlimited use and unrestricted exposure. The five-year review evaluates the implementation and performance of a remedy to determine if it is or will be protective of human health and the environment.

Contact: Rosita Clarke-Moreno (312-886-7251)

Workshops, Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) Title III, Novi and Grand Rapids, Michigan

On January 22 and 24, 2002, James Entzminger, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, gave presentations on the modifications to the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) regulations, and compliance and enforcement initiatives to approximately 320 people. These presentations were part of the EPCRA awareness course offered by the Michigan State Emergency Response Commission. The courses were held in Novi, Michigan (180 people), and Grand Rapids, Michigan (140 people). Mr. Entzminger also gave a presentation on the Self-Auditing and Self-Disclosure Policies. Both presentations were well received.

Contact: James Entzminger (312-886-4062)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers